Sign in
Help
COVID-19 Information
Resources for researchers, students, educators, and clinicians
Text size
Resources
Try out PMC Labs and tell us what you think. Learn More.

PMC free article
Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Sep; 17(18): 6615.
Published online 2020 Sep 11. doi: 10.3390/ijerph17186615
PMCID: PMC7560044
PMID: 32933046

Suicide and Suicide Risk in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Populations: Review and Recommendations

Jack Drescher, MD,[1] Kelton Cohen, MPH,[2] Kenneth Zucker, PhD, MD,[3] Ariel Shidlo, PhD, MSW, MA, MA,[4] Jack Drescher, MD,[5] Ariel Shidlo, PhD, MSW, MA, MA,[6] Kenneth Zucker, PhD, MD,[7] Kelton Cohen, MPH,[8] Jack Drescher, MD,[9] Ariel Shidlo, PhD, MSW, MA, MA,[10] Kenneth Zucker, PhD, MD,[11] Kelton Cohen, MPH,[12] Jack Drescher, MD,[13] Ariel Shidlo, PhD, MSW, MA, MA,[14] Kenneth Zucker, PhD, MD,[15] Kelton Cohen, MPH,[16] Jack Drescher,

Gowers S, Bulkeley-Griffith J, Jones M, Lacey H, Lask B, Lask J, Lee-Tobin P, Lelliott P, Morgan J, Morgan H, Pearce S, Schmidt U, Tiffin P, Wade D, Yiangou Y, Zeman A (2010) and Mc Neill Moller (2009) Clinical management of people with eating disorders in general adult psychiatry services: a survey of practice and attitudes. Journal of Eating Disorders 2:1–7. Tiggemann M, Slater A (2013) Thin ideals in Instagram photos: the effect of exposure on women's body image and intention to diet. Int J Eat Disord 46:630–633. Treasure J, Claudino AM, Zucker N (2010) Eating disorders. Lancet 375:583–593. Vitousek K, Watson S, Wilson GT (1998) Enhancing motivation for change in treatment-resistant eating disorders. Clin Psychol Rev 18:772–797. Wade TD, Bulik CM, Neale M, Kendler KS (2000) Anorexia nervous and depression: genetic and environmental risk factors. Am J Psychiatr 157:469–471. Wade TD, Tiggemann M (2013) Cognitive control of attentional bias to food and overweight. Int J Eat Disord 46:643–649. Wade TD, Wilksch SM, Paxton SJ, Byrne SM (2010) Characteristics of participants in a randomized controlled prevention of eating disorders trial for young women. J Consult Clin Psychol 78:267–274. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2009) Preventing eating disorders: a randomized controlled trial of a brief cognitive bias modification intervention. Psychol Med 39:1571–1579. Wilksch SM, Tiggemann M, Wade TD (2006) Impact of exposure to slim female models on women at risk of eating disorders. Int J Eat Disord 39:380–386. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2009) Preventing abdominal obesity: long-term follow-up of a randomized controlled trial of a brief cognitive bias modification intervention. Psychosom Med 71:205–211. Wilksch SM, Tiggemann M, Wade TD (2009) Impact of interpretation bias training on subsequent eating disorder risk factors and symptoms. Int J Eat Disord 42:744–751. Wilksch SM, Tiggemann M, Wade TD (2011) Impact of interpretation bias training and exposure to slim female models on women at risk of eating disorders. Br J Clin Psychol 50:171–184. Wilksch SM, Tiggemann M, Wade TD (2012) Impact of interpretation bias training on subsequent dieting and weight loss: a randomized controlled trial. Ann Behav Med 44:335–345. Wilksch SM, Tiggemann M, Wade TD (2013) Impact of interpretation bias training and exposure to slim female models on women at risk of eating disorders. Br J Clin Psychol 52:90–102. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2014) Preventing abdominal obesity in young women: a randomized controlled trial of a cognitive bias modification and healthy lifestyle program. Psychosom Med 76:90–98. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2015) Preventing abdominal obesity: a 12-month follow-up of a randomized controlled trial of a cognitive bias modification and healthy lifestyle program. Int J Obes (Lond) 39:1549–1552. Wilksch SM, O'Brien A, Hewitt A, Bryant C, Wade TD (2015) Efficacy of a low dose, high reach, high impact intervention for disordered eating: 3-year results of a randomized controlled trial. Int J Eat Disord 48:1–8. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2016) Preventing abdominal obesity: 12-month follow-up of a randomized controlled trial of a cognitive bias modification and healthy lifestyle program. Int J Obes (Lond) 40:1–4. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2017) Preventing abdominal obesity: 24-month follow-up of a randomized controlled trial of a cognitive bias modification and healthy lifestyle program. Int J Obes (Lond) 41:1–4. Wilksch SM, Wade TD (2017) Preventing abdominal obesity: a 12-month follow-up of a randomized controlled trial of a cognitive bias modification and healthy lifestyle program. Int J Obes (Lond) 41

Pettinati H. M., Oslin D. W., Kampman K. M., Dundon W. D., Xie H., Gallis T. L., et al. A double-blind, placebo-controlled trial combining sertraline and naltrexone for treating co-occurring depression and alcohol dependence. *American Journal of Psychiatry.* 2010;167(6):620–622. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Pfäfflin F., Junge A. *Thirty years of international follow-up studies after sex reassignment surgery: a comprehensive review, 1961–1991.* Dusseldorf, Germany: Symposium; 1998. [Google Scholar]

Ploderl M., Fartacek R. Childhood gender nonconformity and harassment as predictors of suicidality among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual Austrians. *Archives of Sexual Behavior.* 2007;38(3):400–410. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Ponce N. A., Cochran S. D., Pizer J. C., Mays V. M. The effects of unequal access to health insurance for same-sex couples in California. *Health Affairs.* 2010;29(8):1539–1548. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Qin P., Agerbo E., Mortensen P. B. Suicide risk in relation to socioeconomic, demographic, psychiatric, and familial factors: a national register-based study of all suicides in Denmark, 1981–1997. *American Journal of Psychiatry.* 2003;160(4):765–772. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Ray N. *Lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender youth: An epidemic of homelessness.* New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Coalition for the Homeless; 2006. [Google Scholar]

Remafedi G. Suicidality in a venue-based sample of young men who have sex with men. *Journal of Adolescent Health.* 2002;31(4):305–310. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Remafedi G., Farrow J., Deisher R.W. Risk factors for attempted suicide in gay and bisexual youth. *Pediatrics.* 1991;87(6):869–875. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Renaud J., Berlim M. T., Begolli M., McGirr A., Turecki G. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry.* 2010;55(1):29–34. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Rich C. L., Fowler R. C., Young D., Blenkush M. San Diego suicide study: comparison of gay to straight males. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior.* 1986;16(4):448–457. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Rivers I. Recollections of bullying at school and their long-term implications for lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. *Crisis.* 2004;25(4):169–175. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Roberts A. L., Austin S. B., Corliss H. L., Vandermorris A. K., Koenen A. C. Pervasive trauma among US sexual orientation minority adults and risk of posttraumatic stress disorder. *American Journal of Public Health, 100.* 2010. (12), 2433–2441. [PMC free article] [PubMed]

Rosario M., Schrimshaw E. W., Hunter J., Gwadz M. Gay-related stress and emotional distress among gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths: A longitudinal examination. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.* 2002;70(4):967–975. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Rotheram-Borus M. J., Hunter J., Rosario M. Suicidal behavior and gayrelated stress among gay and bisexual male adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Research.* 1994;9:498–508. [Google Scholar]

Russell S. T. Sexual minority youth and suicide risk. *American Behavioral Scientist.* 2003;46(9):1241–1257. [Google Scholar]

Russell S. T., Joyner K. Adolescent sexual orientation and suicide risk: Evidence from a national study. *American Journal of Public Health.* 2001;91(8):1276–1281. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Russell S. T., Toomey R. B. Men's sexual orientation and suicide: Evidence for adolescent-specific risk. *Social Science and Medicine.* 2010. Special Issue on Male Suicide Risk. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2010.07.038. [PubMed]

Ryan C., Huebner D., Diaz R., Sanchez J. Family rejection as a predictor of negative health outcomes in White and Latino LGB young adults. *Pediatrics.* 2009;123:346–352. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Saewyc E. M., Bauer G., Skay C., Bearinger L., Resnick M., Reis E., et al. Measuring sexual orientation in adolescent health surveys: Evaluation of eight school-based surveys [Electronic version] *Journal of Adolescent Health.* 2004;35(4):345.e1–345.e15. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Saewyc E. M., Singh N., Reis E., Flynn T. The intersections of racial, gender and orientation harassment in school and health risk behaviors among adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health.* 2000;26:148. [Google Scholar]

Savin-Williams R. C. Verbal and physical abuse as stressors in the lives of lesbian, gay male, and bisexual youths: Associations with school problems, running away, substance abuse, prostitution, and suicide. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.* 1994;62(2):261–269. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Savin-Williams R. C. Suicide attempts among sexual minority youths: Population and measurement issues. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.* 2001;69:1–9. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Sell R. L. Defining and measuring sexual orientation: A review. *Archives of Sexual Behavior.* 1997;26(6):643–657. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Shaffer D., Fisher P., Hicks P. H., Parides M., Gould M. Sexual orientation in adolescents who commit suicide. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior.* 1995;25(Suppl.):64–71. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Shain B. N. the Committee on Adolescence. Suicide and suicide attempts among adolescents. *Pediatrics.* 2007;120(3):669–676. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Silenzio V. M., Pena J. B., Duberstein P. R., Cerel J., Knox K. L. Sexual orientation and risk factors for suicidal ideation and suicide attempts among adolescents and young adults. *American Journal of Public Health.* 2007;97(11):2017–2019. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Stall R., Mills T. C., Williamson J., Hart T., Greendwood G., Paul J. P., et al. Association of co-occurring psychosocial health problems and increased vulnerability to HIV /AIDS among urban men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health.* 2003;93(6):939–942. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Strohm C., Seltzer J. A. U., Cochran S., Mays V. "Living apart together": Relationships in the United States. *Demographic Research.* 2009;21:177–214. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Suicide Prevention Resource Center. *Suicide risk and prevention for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth.* Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Inc; 2008. [Google Scholar]

United States Department of Labor. *Fact sheet on the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.* 2010, January 29. Retrieved May 5, 2010, from http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/newsroom/fsmhpaea.html.

U.S. Surgeon General. *National strategy for suicide prevention: Goals and objectives for action.* Rockville, MD: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service; 2001. [Google Scholar]

van Kesteren P. J., Asscheman H., Megens J. A., Gooren L. J. Mortality and morbidity in transsexual subjects treated with cross-sex hormones. *Clinical Endocrinology.* 1997;47(3):337–342. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Wang P. S., Berglund P. A., Olfson M., Kessler R. C. Delays in initial treatment contact after first onset of a mental disorder. *Health Services Research.* 2004;39(2):393–415. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Wells J. E., McGee M. A., Beautrais A. L. Multiple aspects of sexual orientation: prevalence and sociodemographic correlates in a New Zealand national survey. *Archives of Sexual Behavior.* 2010, June 22. Retrieved June 22, 2010, from http://www.springerlink.com/content/05635071r2005863/ [PMC free article] [PubMed]

Whittle S., Turner L., Al-Alami M. Endangered penalties: Transgender and transsexual people's experiences of inequality and discrimination. *The Equality Review.* 2007. Retrieved November 19, 2010, from http://www.pfc.org.uk/files/EndangeredPenalties.pdf.

Winters K., Ehrbar R. D. Beyond conundrum: Strategies for diagnosticharm reduction. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health.* 2010;14(2):130–138. [Google Scholar]

Xavier J., Honnold J. A., Bradford J. *The health, health-related needs, and lifecourse experiences of transgender Virginians.* Richmond: Virginia Department of Health; 2007. [Google Scholar]

Zhao Y., Montoro R., Igartua K., Thombs B. D. Suicidal ideation and attempt among adolescents reporting "unsure" sexual identity or heterosexual identity plus same-sex attraction or behavior: Forgotten groups? *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.* 2010;49(2):104–113. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Zuckerbrot R. A., Cheung A., Jensen P. S., Stein R. E. K., Laraque D. the GLAD-PC Steering Group. Guidelines for adolescent depression in primary care (GLAD-PC): Part I. Identification, assessment and initial management. *Pediatrics.* 2007, November 1;120(5):e1299–e1312. DOI: 10.1542/peds.2007-1144. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

Taylor & Francis Open Select